

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 03672 061946Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

HA-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 AID-05 /091 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5212

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 3672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV

SUBJECT: REP. FRASER'S INTEREST IN DR "POLITICAL PRISONERS"

REF: A. DE SANTILLANA/AXELROD LETTER OF JUNE 20; B. SD 2973

1. JORGE PUELLO SORIANO ("EL MEN") AND PLINIO MATOS MOQUETE WERE TRANSFERRED JUNE 1 FROM LA VICTORIA PENITENTIARY TO PRISONS IN SAN CRISTOBAL AND SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, RESPECTIVELY, ON ORDERS OF THE ACTING DOMINICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL, DR. RAMON OTILIO RIVERA ALVAREZ. IN PRESS INTERVIEW, DR. RIVERA EXPLAINED THAT TRANSFER WAS DUE TO "ACTS OF INDISCIPLINE" OF PUELLO AND MATOS MOQUETE WHILE AT LA VICTORIA. AUTHORITIES HAD REQUESTED THE TRANSFER OF THE TWO PRISONERS, ACCORDING TO RIVERA, FOLLOWING A HUNGER STRIKE WHICH OCCURRED AT THE PENITENTIARY.

2. EMBASSY HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER DISCUSSED CASE PRIVATELY WITH RIVERA. ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID ORDER OF TRANSFER WAS DATED MAY 31. HE REITERATED PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT REMOVAL OF PUELLO AND MATOS MOQUETE WAS AT REQUEST OF LA VICTORIA AUTHORITIES. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT TRANSFER WAS FOR PRISONERS' OWN BENEFIT BECAUSE ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS DUE TO LARGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS AT LA VICTORIA IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE

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PAGE 02 SANTO 03672 061946Z

FOR AUTHORITIES TO GET THEM ALL TO COURT APPEARANCES UNDER APPROPRIATE ESCORT. ALSO, HE SAID ALTHOUGH LA VICTORIA IS PHYSICALLY CLOSER TO THE CAPITAL, THE PRISONS IN SAN CRISTOBAL AND SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS (20 MINUTES AND ONE HOUR, RESPECTIVELY, BY CAR FROM SANTO DOMINGO) IN FACT PROVIDE FASTER ACCESS TO THE COURTS BECAUSE THEY ARE CONNECTED TO THE CAPITAL BY MAIN

HIGHWAYS WHEREAS THE ROAD TO LA VICTORIA IS QUITE
DETERIORATED. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO RIVERA, TRANSFER
OF PUELLO AND MATOS MOQUETE TO THESE LOCATIONS COULD NOT
BE COMPARED TO THEIR PREVIOUS INCARCERATION IN PRISONS
NEAR THE HAITIAN BORDER.

3. ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL STATED THAT BOTH PRISONERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES HAD COMPLAINED PUBLICLY OVER TRANSFER.
HE OPINED THAT THEY WERE SIMPLY ATTEMPTING TO GET POLITICAL
CAPITAL FROM THE INCIDENT AND THAT THE TWO PRISONERS
PREFERRED TO BE AT LA VICTORIA BECAUSE THERE WAS MORE
POLITICAL ACTIVITY AMONG THE PRISONERS AT THE PENITENTIARY.

4. DR. RIVERA NOTED THAT HIS OFFICE HAD RECENTLY
ANSWERED A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PUELLO/MATOS
RIVERA TRANSFER FROM FOREIGN SECRETARIAT IN ORDER TO
RESPOND TO INQUIRY FROM UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

5. CONGRESSMAN FRASER REFERS TO GENERAL AMNESTY INCOMING
ADMINISTRATION HAS PROMISED. THIS OVERSTATES CASE
SOMEWHAT SINCE PRESIDENT-ELECT GUZMAN DECLARED JUNE 1
(DAY AFTER PUELLO AND MATOS MOQUETE WERE ORDERED
TRANSFERRED) THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS WILL BE RELEASED
AND EXILES ALLOWED TO RETURN ONLY AFTER CONSIDERATION ON
CASE-BY-CASE BASIS (REF B). THE SUBJECTS ARE CHARGED WITH A SERIES
OF CAPITAL CRIMES.
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PAGE 03 SANTO 03672 061946Z

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Message Attributes

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